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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,235	07/22/2003	Peter Malcolm Moran	9030-0001	8617
7590		01/17/2007	EXAMINER	
Carol A. Schneider, Ph.D.,J.D. Reed Intellectual Property Law Group 1400 Page Mill Road Palo Alto, CA 94304			HOMAYOUNMEHR, FARID	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2132	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/17/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

*Supplemental
Office Action Summary*

Application No.

10/625,235

Applicant(s)

MORAN ET AL.

Examiner

Farid Homayounmehr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18, 23, 25, 26, 29, and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-18, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 31 have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement PTO-1449

1. The Information Disclosure Statement submitted by applicant on 8/25/2003 has been considered. Please see attached PTO-1449.

Response to Restriction/Election Requirement

2.1. Claims 19-22, 24, 27, 28, 30 and 32 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected transmission of an electric signal from an active source to authenticate data or data to determine if an object or document is valid, or the identify of an individual (Group II), there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 9/29/2006.

2.2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, including claims 1-18, 23, 25, 26, 29, and 31 in the reply filed on 9/29/2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the claim of groups I and II share the common ground of a substrate material with pores. This is not found persuasive because the main subject matter of invention is not limited to a substrate with pores. The subject matter of invention is

directed to an identification card which stores identifying information. The information is stored using magnetic and electric fields, which represent two different fields of search. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-14, 16-18, 23, 25, 26, 29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (US Patent No. 5972438, dated October 26, 1999).

4.1. As per claim 1, Suzuki is directed to a method of identifying an object having identification information, said identification information being used to verify the identity of the object (column 1 line 10-20), said method comprising:

determining at least one characteristic of a magnetic field of at least a portion of a tag, thereby obtaining a first specific magnetic signal (for example, column 7 line 43-60), wherein the tag comprises a substantially non-magnetic host material (column 7 line 60-65) having pores, wherein at least some of the pores contain a magnetic material (Fig. 17(A) and associated text (including column 11 line 33-36), see also column 2 line 14-

34), and storing signal information relating to said first specific magnetic signal, said stored signal information forming the identification information of the object (column 1 line 20-31).

4.2. As per claim 2, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining at least one characteristic of said magnetic field of the at least one portion of said tag comprises a measurement of said characteristic of the site-specific magnetic field over a surface of said portion of the tag, thereby mapping a magnetic fluctuation signal (column 31 line 52 to column 32 line 5).

4.3. As per claim 3, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein storing signal information relating to the first specific magnetic signal comprises storing data corresponding to the at least one characteristic of said magnetic field over said portion of the tag (column 31 line 52 to column 32 line 5 shows measurement of data recorded on the card, therefore, data must have been stored before reading).

4.4. As per claim 4, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, further comprising: subsequently determining the at least one characteristic of the magnetic field of said portion of the tag, thereby obtaining a second specific magnetic signal, and comparing said second specific magnetic signal with the previously stored identification information (column 31 line 52 to column 32 line 5 shows that the data read from the card was

verified to determine if it was altered, therefore, the data must have been compared with a stored data).

4.5. As per claim 5, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 4, further comprising: magnetizing the tag prior to each determination of the at least one characteristic of the magnetic field of said portion of the tag (column 13 line 50 to 55, where the biasing is actually magnetizing the magnetic field).

4.6. As per claim 6, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, further comprising: recording information on the tag by magnetizing the magnetic material present in groups of pores into poled domains, or patterning pores of the tag with magnetic material (column 7 line 11 to column 8 line 48).

4.7. As per claims 7 and 8, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the tag is attached to the object to be identified before or after obtaining the first specific magnetic signal (Suzuki's magnetic layer (column 1 line 20 to 50) is the identifier and it can be attached to any object to identify the object in association with the magnetic layer, either before or after the identifying signal is obtained).

4.8. As per claim 9, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the tag comprises a substrate supporting the host material (Fig. 1 to 3 and associated text).

4.9. As per claim 10, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 9, wherein the substrate comprises material selected from the group consisting of metal, silicon, silica, glass, plastic, ceramic and combinations thereof (column 15 line 15 to 25 shows the binder, which is part of the substrate can be made from Silica, Silicone or other material).

4.10. As per claim 11, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the host material is selected from the group consisting of alumina, zeolites, group III-V materials, polymers, silicon oxide, zinc oxide and tin oxide (column 12 line 8 to 15).

4.11. As per claims 12 and 13, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the host material comprises nanotubes cast within a second host material (per application specification, nanotubes are cast in the medium to create a barcode pattern to encode data. Suzuki Fig. 6 and associated text is directed to barcodes (item 4a) implemented in the medium).

4.12. As per claim 14, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the magnetic material is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Co, their alloys, oxides, mixtures and combinations thereof (column 12 line 9-15).

4.13. As per claim 16, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein the tag further comprises at least one coating layer (see for example column 25 line 25-30).

4.14. As per claim 17, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, wherein said at least one characteristic of the magnetic field of the portion of the tag is highly dependent on the disorder of the tag (Suzuki's magnetic characteristic is defined by the recording of information on the magnetic media, as described in for example column 17 line 10 to column 18 line 37)..

4.15. As per claim 18, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 17, wherein the disorder is due to a feature selected from the group consisting of pore size, shape and orientation of pores, percentage of pore filling, crystal orientation of magnetic material in the tag; and combinations thereof (column 17 line 46 to column 31 line 52 provides 12 different examples where the disorder (alignment of magnetic particles after recording) is dependent on the type and concentration of particles, and orientation of the magnetic field, etc).

4.16. Limitations of claims 23, 25, 29 and 31 are substantially the same as claims 1-18 above.

4.17. As per claim 26, the limitation of said coating layer comprises a material which has a bulk yield stress greater than 50 MN/m² is a design choice for hard material (see applicant's specification paragraph 52). Suzuki teaches a tamper proof identification card which inherently requires a hard covering to resist tampering.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (US Patent No. 5972438, dated October 26, 1999).

6.1. As per claim 15, Suzuki is directed to the method of claim 1, but it does not specifically determine the diameter of the pores. However, barring any unexpected results, the diameter range of 100 nm to 500 nm would have been an obvious choice for a person skilled in art trying to implement the invention. This is because the thickness of the coding layer of Suzuki was disclosed to be in the range of 1 micron, which is equivalent to 1000 nm (see column 26 line 3). Note that Suzuki's pores are filled with magnetic particles within the coding layer, therefore, the pores must be much smaller than 1000 nm to fit in the coding layer.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farid Homayounmehr whose telephone number is 571

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272 3739. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hrs Mon-Fri, off Monday biweekly.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Farid Homayounmehr

Examiner

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Taghi F. Arani
Primary Examiner
Cao M. D. Arani
7/12/07